

From: jim@bostonvr.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 3:54am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

I am writing in regards to the impending settlement issues with the US government and Microsoft.

I am deeply concerned of the tone set by the Justice Department and it's willingness to accept the settlement of computers and services for poor schools. This has been well stated in broad terms and I concur with the facts that this sanction against Microsoft is unacceptable. Furthermore, I am concerned that this settlement is a political move.

The issue is that Microsoft has broken the law and been found guilty of monopolistic practices. The only way to control further problems is to break the company up. They won. Now it is time to dismember the company into components and let them as well as other companies continue to compete for business.

This is not a serious problem since the cash the company has can be used to allow each segment of the company to flourish for the short term. Let each division compete against each other. This is the American way!

Let us look 20 years from now. Microsoft will control your tv, internet, and your online transactions. They potentially have the opportunity to control communication as well as a major player in the banking market. How did they get there, with the resources obtained through a monopoly. Having one company controlling greater than 94% of the computers in this country is a pretty scary.

I will say that again Having one company controlling greater than 94% of the computers in this country is a pretty scary.

This is not a question of innovation. This is a question of control and power.

Would the justice department be concerned if any one country controlled(and Microsoft does) 94% of a market

What if Citibank controlled 94% of all banking in the country
What if Kemper Insurance controlled 94% of all insurance policies commercial and residential?
What is Exxon sold 94% of all oil in the country?
What is Johnson and Johnson manufactured 94% of all drugs in the country?

The list can go on and on..... America is about competition and

capitalism.

Taking the software and making code open to others is just plain wrong. The amount of resources required to redevelop new products would take too long for a company to catch up to Microsoft. By breaking the company into parts allows for capitalism to breed a new.....the basis for what this country stands for.

How could the company be broken up.....3 parts.....each company gets all rights to all parts of Microsoft. (intellectual, monetary, as well as assets) Basically this is what happened to ATT but in that instance, there were location issues.....hence the actual dividing was done in territories.... The nature of software is portability....hence let all parts take ownership.

This would allow each part to decide which way the new companies can go forward.

What did the government do with ATT.....ATT had to give up control of the local wires.....

If you break Microsoft up, you will get cheaper products and a race to make a better product.

Microsoft is too big to contend with in any other way. Monetary damages are not enough for it will be the American public that pays.....not Microsoft.

Let's look at this a some foresight, courage as well as wisdom. It is the obligation of the justice department to correct a problem that is going to get much worse. I hate Vanilla, let's put some more flavors on the menu.

Sincerely

Jim Mooney
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